

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 826

Introduced by Assembly Member Jackson

February 20, 2003

An act relating to drinking water.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 826, as introduced, Jackson. Drinking water standards: perchlorates.

The California Safe Drinking Water Act establishes, among other things, primary drinking water standards for public water systems, and requires the State Department of Health Services to administer provisions relating to the regulation of drinking water and public water systems, except as specified. The act requires the department to adopt primary drinking water standards for contaminants in drinking water, and requires the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment to prepare and publish an assessment of the risks to public health posed by each contaminant for which the department proposes a primary drinking water standard.

This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would establish a program for the elimination or significant reduction of perchlorate in the state's drinking water, and to ensure that the department sets regulatory drinking water standards for perchlorate that are as close to the corresponding public health goal as is economically and technically feasible.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (1) The Department of Health Services, in the year 2000,
4 reported detections of perchlorate in 44 public drinking water
5 systems, with 23 systems indicating levels greater than 18 part per
6 billion.

7 (2) This perchlorate contamination has been found statewide,
8 including areas in Los Angeles, Pasadena, Riverside, Sacramento,
9 San Bernardino, and Santa Clarita.

10 (3) Perchlorate can persist for many years in ground and
11 surface water, and it is difficult to remove perchlorate with
12 standard water treatment processes.

13 (4) Perchlorate has been found in scientific studies to disrupt
14 thyroid hormone production, which hinders the body's ability to
15 regulate its metabolism and physical growth.

16 (5) Pregnant women and their developing fetuses may suffer
17 the most serious health effects from perchlorate contamination in
18 drinking water, including improper thyroid functioning and
19 inhibition of iodine intake.

20 (6) The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment is
21 proposing a public health goal within the range of 2 to 6 parts per
22 billion of perchlorate in water.

23 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to do
24 both of the following:

25 (1) Establish a program for the elimination or significant
26 reduction of perchlorate in the state's drinking water.

27 (2) Ensure that the State Department of Health Services sets
28 regulatory drinking water standards for perchlorate that are as
29 close to the corresponding public health goal as is economically
30 and technically feasible.

